Atrocities against Women

1007. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rape and atrocities cases on women which have been reported and registered from different States during the last five years;

(b) the number of cases in which conviction has taken place;

(c) the guidelines issued to different States to adopt stringent measures against the culprits so that such cases are reduced; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) and (b) The information is contained in the enclosed Annexure. [*See Appendix* 175 Annexure No. 25]. Also, available information on the number of convictions in cases of 'rape' and 'kidnapping of women & girls' is enclosed as statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects, hence the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime against women is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. Steps for checking crime against women is also primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Government has, from time to time, been writing to the concerned State Governments regarding preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures to be taken in connection with atrocities on women. Apart from implementing a number of development programmes like "Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas" (DWACRA) Programme and Female Literacy Programme, the Govt. of India has been modifying and amending the relevant laws from time to time with a view to making such laws more stringent and punitive in nature.

Repair of bridges in Gujarat

1008. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bridges over National Highways in Gujarat which collapsed during each of the last three years district-wise;

(b) the number of bridges repaired out of them and the time by which the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) None.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Seminar on Reforms in Indian Petroleum Industries

1009. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on "Petroleum industry restructuring sharing global

experience" was recently held in New Delhi in order to bring about more reforms in the Indian Petroleum Industry;

(b) if so, what major recommendations were made by the participants at the seminar; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to protect the intersts of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society by ensuring that beneficial effects reach/given to consumers both quality-wise and price-wise by undertaking reforms in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main aim of organising the seminar was to gain an understanding as to how other countries/international companies have dealt with the restructuring process to maintain their competitive advantage and meet the energy challenges of the future. No specifific recommendations were made at the seminar.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Passports Issued by Passport Offices in Punjab

1010. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by the passport offices in the State of Punjab, passport office-wise; and

(b) the number of applications pending with the passport offices in Punjab for the grant of passports as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The total number of passports issued by Passports Offices in the State of Punjab and passport applications pending with these Passport Offices, are as follows:

Passport Office	Total Number of Passports Issued during the period 1.1.1995 to 24.11.1995	Total Number of Passport Applications Pendings on 24.11.1995
Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh	93,017	11,704
Passport Office, Jalandhar	90,480	17,089

Scheme for development and growth of fruit and vegetable processing

1011. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme in the country particularly in the State of Punjab for the growth and development of fruit and vegetable processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries was set up in July, 1988 with a view to give a thrust to the development of food processing industries in the country. A strong and effective food processing sector plays a significant